## WORD OF THE LORD

Talmage Prepares a Sermon on Religion in the Family

FOR THE CHICAGO UNGODLY

The Prayers of Father and Mother Outlast all Other Early Influences-A Plous Grandmother.

Carcago, March 18.-Bov. Dr. Talrait did not preach today. He prepared for the press, however, the following factories on "Religion at Home," the not selected being Joshus xxiv, 15, "As me and my house, we will serve the

Absurd, Joshuai You will have no time for family religion; you are a military character, and your time will be alsen up with affairs connected with the true; you are a statesman, and your time will be taken up with public affairs; on are the Washington, the Wellington, the McMahon of the Isrpelitish heet. you will have a great many questions to settle; you will have no time for religion. But Joshua, with the same voice with which he commanded the sun and moun to halt and stack arms of light on the parado ground of the heavens, says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the

Before we adopt the resolution of this did soldier we want to be certain it is a wise resolution. If religion is going to put my piano out of tune, and clog the feet of the children racing through the hall, and sour the bread, and put crape on the doorbell, I do not want it in my house. I once gave \$6 to hear Jenny Lind wurble. I have never given a cent to hear any one groan. Will this religion spoken of in my text do anything for the dining hall, for the nursery, for the par-

lor, for the alsoping apartment?
It is a great deal easier to invite a dis-It is a great deal easier to invite a dis-agreeable great than to get rid of him. If you do not want religion, you had bet-ter not ask it to come, for after coming it may stay a great while. Isaac Watts went to visit St. Thomas and Lady Ab-ney at their place in Theobald and was to stay a week and staid 35 years, and if religion once gets into your household the probability is it will stay there for-

Now, the question I want to discuss is, What will religion do for the household? Question the first: What did it do for our father's house if you were brought up in a Christian home?
THE PATHER'S PRAYER.

That whole scene has vanished, but it comes back today. The hour for morning prayers came. You were invited in Somewhat fidgety, you sat and listened. Your father made no pretention to rhetorical reading, and he just went through the chapter in a plain, straightforward way. Then you all knelt. It was about the same prayer morning by morning and night by night, for he had the same sins to sek pardon for, and he had the same blessings for which to be grateful

day after day and year after year.

The prayer was longer than you would like to have had it, for the game at buil was waiting or the skates were lying under the shed, or the schoolbooks needel one or two more looking at the lossons. Your parents, somewhat rheumatcult to rise from their kneeling. The chair at which they knot is gone, the Bible out of which they read has perhaps fallen to pieces, the parents are gone, the children scattered north, east, south and west, but that whole scene flashes upon your memory today,

Was that morning and evening exercise in your father's bouse debasing or devating? Is it not among the most sacred reminiscences? You were not as devotional as some of the older members of your fother's house who were kneeling with you at the time, and you did not bow your head as closely as they did, and you looked around and you saw just the posture your father and mother assumed while they were kneeling on the foer. The whole some is so photographed on your memory that if you erro an artist you could draw it now just as they knot.

For how much would you have that scene obliderated from your memory? It all comes back today, and you are in the bornestead again. Father is there, mother is there, all of you children are there. It is the same old prayer, opening with the same petition, closing with the same thanksgiving. The family prayers of 1840-50 as fresh in your memory as though they were uttered yesterday. The tear that starts from your eye melts all that scene. Gone, is iff Why, pushy a time it has held you steady in the struggles of life. You once started for a place, and that memory jerbed you back, and you would not enter.

The broken prayer of your father has had more effect on you than all you ever read in Shakespeare and Milton and Ten-ayson and Dante. You have gone over or a moment got out of eight of that comestic sites. Oh, my friends, is it your spinion this morning that the 10 or 11 minutes subtracted from each day for nily devotion was an economy or a waste of time in your father's house-hold! I think some of us are coming to the conclusion that the religion which was in our father's house would be a very appropriate religion for our homes. If

family prayers did not damage that household, there is no probability that they will damage our household. No not not nothing amazine on. "Is God dead?" said a child to her fa-ther. "No," he rapited. "Why do you sait that?" "Wall," she said, "when mother was living, we used to have had firmily prayers, and I didn't know but that God was dead too." A family

that is immensed in the morning with family prayers is well hunchest. Break-fast over, the family center, some to school, some to household duties, some to business. During the day there will be a thousand partle abroad—perils of the street car, of the scaffolding, of the un-governed horse, of the mission, of the aroused temper, of multitudinous temp-tations to do wrong

governal horse, of the misstep, of the aroused temper, of multitudinous temptanous to do wrong.

Somewhere between 7 o'clock in the morning and 30 o'clock at night there may be a moment when you will be in urgent need of God, Besides that, family prayers will be a secular advantage. A father went into the war to serve his country. His children stayed and cultivated the farm. His wife prayed. One of the mes said afterward "Yather is fighting, and we are digging, and mother is praying." "Ah." said some one, "Praying and digging and fighting will bring us out of our national troubles."

We may pray in the morning, "Give us this day our daily bread," and sit down in idleness and starve to death; but prayer and hard work will give a livelihood to say family. Family religion pays for both worlds. Let us have an altar in each one of our households. You may not be able to formulate a prayer. Then there are Philip Henry's prayers, and there are Philip Dodding to prayers, and there are the Episcopa: thurch prayers.

"Oh," says some man, "I don't feel competent to lead my household in prayer." Well, I do not know that it is your duty to lead. I think perhaps it is sometimes better for the mother of the household to lead. She knows better the wants of the household. She can read the Scriptures with a more tender enunciation. She knows more of God. I will ciation. She knows more of God. I will put it plainly and say she prays better. Oh, these thothers decide almost every-thing! Nero's mother was a murderess. Lord Byron's mother was haughty and impious. You might have guessed that

Walter Scott's mother was fond of poetry. Washington's mother was rond of poetry. Washington's mother was patri-otic. Samuel Budget's mother was a thor-ough Christian. St. Bernard's mother was noble minded. So you might have guessed from their children. Good men always have good mothers. There may once in 10 or 20 years be an exception to the rule, but it is only an exception. Ben-jamin West's mother kissed him after she had seen his first wonderful sketch

she had seen his first wonderful sketch with the pencil. Benjamin West afterward said, "That kiss made me a painter."

A young man received a furlough to return from the army to his father's house. Afterward he took the furlough back to the officer, saying, "I would like to postpone my visit for two weeks." At the end of the two weeks he came and got the furlough. He was asked why he waited. "Well," he replied, "when I left home I told my mother I would be a Christian in the army, and I was resolved not to go home until I could answer her first question." Oh, the aimost omnipotent power of the mother! But if both tent power of the mother! But if both the father and the mother be right, then the children are almost sure to be right. The young people may make a wide curve from the straight path, but they are almost sure to come back to the right road. It may not be until the death of

How often it is that we hear some one ace his father's death, he has been different!" The fact is that the father's coffin or the mother's coffin is often the altar of repentance for the child. Oh, that was a stupendons day, the day of father's burial. It was not the officiating clergyman who made the chief impression, nor the sympathizing mourners. It was the father asleep in the cas-

The hands that had telled for that household so long, folded. The brain cooled off after 20 or 40 years of anxiety about how to put that family in right position. The lips closed after so many years of good advice. There are more ears falling in mother's grave than in father's grave, but over the father's tomb I think there is a kind of awe. It is at that marble pillar many a young man has been revolutionized. ANCESTRAL RELIGION.

Oh, young man with cheek flushed with dissipate n! how long is it since you have been dat to your father's grave? Will you not go this week? Perhaps the storms of the last few days may have bent the beadstone until it leans for over. You had better go out and see whether the lettering has been defaced. You had better go out and see whether the gate of the lot is closed. You had better go and see if you cannot find a sermon in the springing grass. Oh, young man, go out this week and see your fa-

Religion did so much for our Christian ancestry, are we not ready this morning to be willing to receive it into our own households? If we do receive it, let it come through the front door, not through the back door. In other words, do not let us smuggle it in. There are a great many families who want to be religious, but they do not want anybody outside to know it. They would be mortified to death if you caught them at family prayers. They would not sing in the worship for farr the neighbors would hear them. They do not have prayers when

they have company. nobility of the western trapper. A traveler going along was overtaken by night and a storm, and he entered a cabin. There were firearms hang up around the cabin. He was alarmed. He had a large amount of money with him, but he did not dere to venture on into the night in the storm. He did not like the looks of the household. After awhile the father, the western trapper, came in, gun on shoulder, and when the traveler whel at him he was still more affright-

After awhile the family were whispering together in one corner of the room, and the traveler thought to himself, "Oh! now my time has come, I wish I was out

in the storm and in the might resser town here." But the swarthy man came up to him and said "Mr, we are a rough prople; we get our living by heating, and we are very tired when the night comes; but before going to bed we always have a habit of reading a little out of the Biblic and having prayers, and I think we will have our manal custom tomight, and if you don't believe in that kind of thing if you will just step outside the door for a little while I will be much shliged to you.

Oht there are many Christian parents who have not half the courage of that western trapper. They do not want their religious projecting too commissionally. They would like to have it more by so as to call on it in case of a funeral, but as to having it dominant in the household from the lat of January, 7 o'clock a. m., to the first of Depanter, 10 o'clock p. m., they do not want it. They would rather die and have their families perish with them than to cry out in the bold words of the soldier in my text, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

There was, in my encestral line, an incident so strangely impressive that it seems more like romance than reality. It has sometimes been so inaccurately It has sometimes been so inaccurately put forth that I now give you the true incident. My grandfather and grandmother, living at Somerville, N. J., went to Baskingridge to witness a revival under the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Finley. They came home so impressed with what they had seen that they resolved on the salvation of their children.

The young people of the house were to go off for an evening party, and my grandmother said:

"Now, when you are all ready for the party, come to my room, for I have something very important to tell you." All ready for departure, they came to her room, and she said to them, "Now, I want you to remember, while you are away this evening, that I am all the time in this room praying for your salvation, and I shall not cease praying until you get back." The young people went to the party, but amid the loudest hilarities of the night they could not forget that their mother was praying for them. The evening passed, and the night passed.

The next day my grandparents heard an outcry in an adjoining room, and they went in and found their daughter imploring the salvation of the gospel. The daughter told them that her brothers were at the barn and at the wagon house under powerful conviction of sin. They went to the barn. They found my Uncle Jehiah, who afterward became a minis-Jehiah, who afterward became a minister of the gospel, crying to God for mercy. They went to the wagon house. They found their son David, who afterward became my father, imploring God's pardon and mercy. Before a great while the whole family were saved, and David went and told the story to a young woman to whom he was affianced, who as a result of the story became a Christian result of the story became a Christian, and from her own lips my mother's.
I have received the incident,

CONVERSION OF THE TALMAGE PAMILY. The story of that converted household ran through all the neighborhood from family to family until the whole region was whelmed with religious awakening, and at the next communion in the village church at Somerville over 200 souls stood up to profess the faith of the gospel. My mother, carrying the memory of this scene from early womanhood into forther life, in after years was resolved up-on the salvation of her children, and for many years every week she met three other Christian mothers to pray for the salvation of their families. I think that all the members of those families were

saved—myself, the youngest and last.

There were 12 of us children. I trace the whole line of mercy back to that hour when my Christian grandmother sat in her room imploring the bless ing of God upon her children. Nine of her descendants became preachers of the gospel. Many of her descendants are in heaven, many of them still in the Christian conflict. Did it pay for her to spend the whole evening in prayer for her household! Ask her before the throne of God, surrounded by her children. In the presence of the Christian church today I make this record of ancestral picty. Oh, there is a beauty, and a tenderness, and a sublimity in family re-

There are but four or five pictures in the old family Bible that I inherited, but Dore never illustrated a Bible as that book is illustrated to my eyes. Through it I can see into marriages and burials, joys and sorrows, meetings and partings, Thanks giving days and Christian festivals, cradies and dentifieds. Old, old book, speak out and tell of the serrows comforted and of the dying hours trradiated. Old, old book, the hands that held thee are ashes, the eyes that perused thee are lesed. What a pillow thou wouldet make for a dying head. I salute all the memories of the past when I press it to my heart and when I press it to my lips.

Oh, that family Diblet The New Totament in small type is not worthy of being called by that name. Have a whole Bible in large type, with the family record of marriages and births and deaths. What if the curious should turn over the leaves to see how old you are? You are younger now than you will ever be again. The curious will find out from those with whom you have played in your childhood how old you are. Have a family lible. It will go down from generation to generation, full of boly memories. A hundred years after you are dead it will be a benediction to those who come after you. Other books, worn out or fellen apart, will be flung to the garret or the cellar, but this will te inviolate, and it will be your project for centuries against iniquity and in behalf of righteonaucus.

Ob, when we see what family religion did for our father's household, do we not want it to come into the dining room to reak the bread, into the mursery to bless the young, into the parlor to purify the socialities, into the library to control the reading, into the bedroom to ballow the slumber, into the hall to watch our going out and our coming in? Aye, there are hundreds of voices in this house ready to ory out: "Yes! Yes! As for me and my botton, we will serve the Lord."

There are two arms to this subject. The one arm puts its hand on all purents. It says to them, "Don't interfers with your children's welfare, don't interfore with their sternal happeness, don't not by enything you do put out your feet and trip them into ruin. Start them under the shelter, the insurance, the everlasting beip of Christian parentage. Catechistin will not may them, though essections are good. The rod will got



sary. Lessons of virtue will not save them, though they are very important. Becoming a through and through, up and down, out and out Christian yourself

The other arm of this subject puts its hand upon those who had a pious bring-ing up, but who as yet have disappointed the expectations excited in regard to them. I said that children brought up in Christian households, though they might make a widecurve, were very apt to come back to the straight path. Have you not been curving out long enough, and is it not most time for you to begin

EARLY CHICKTIAN TRAINING. "Oh," you say, "they were too rigid." Well now, my brother, I think you have a pretty good character considering what you say your parents were. Do not boast too much about the style in which your parents brought you up.
Might it not be possible that you would
be an exception to the general rule laid
down, and that you might spend your
eternity in a different world from that
in which your parents are spending

I feel anxious about you; you feel anxious about yourself. Oh, cross over into the right path. If your parents prayed for you twice a day, each of them twice a day for 20 years, that would make 20,-000 prayers for you. Think of them!

By the memory of the cradle in which your childhood was rocked with the foot that long ago ceased to move, by the crib in which your own children slumber night by night under God's protecting care, by the two graves in which sleep those two old hearts that beat with love so long for your welfare, and by the two graves in which you, now the living father and mother, will find your last repose, I urge you to the discharge of

Though parents may in covenant be And have their heaven in view, They are not happy till they see Their children happy too.

Oh, you departed Christian ancestry, fathers and mothers in glery, bend from the skies today and give new emphasis to what you told us on earth with many tears and anxieties! Keep a place for us by your blisaful side, for today, in the presence of earth and heaven and hell, and by the belp of the cross, and smid owerwhelming and gracious memories, we resolve, each one for himself, "As for me and my house, we will serve the

An Appeal For Aid. A big black cloud of debt hange over

the spacious Tabernacle in Brooklyn, where Rev. Dr. Talmage speaks every Sunday to thousands. If it be not speed fly dispelled, this great preacher and tencher must give up his labors in a locality where he can do more good than in any place else on earth. The story of the financial trouble at this church seems to be a simple one. It easts not the slightest reflection upon the care, professes or foreight of either Dr. Talmage or his congregation. Several years ago a large church was built. The year fellowing it was found normously to enlarge it at almost the expense of a new church Just as they were getting it paid for it took fire and burned down. Then another large edition was constructed. But a lightning bott out fire to it, and this also was destroyed just as the debt upon It was being wined out. Then the present grout structure was exected, which, including the enlargement on the first, practically comprises four churches that this congregation has built within a few years. Learing Dr. Talmaco's pastorate er Breeklyn hispeople have raised the sum of \$1,000,000 for religious purposes. This, for a congregation of which the members are almost without exception in poor or moderate circumstances financially, is a remarkable example of self sorrifice and liberality. Nor are they weary in this well doing. They say they are willing to work day and night to be rid of this financial emisarrassment. Twenty-fere thousand dollars of the light must be paid at ence, or the noble institution will pass out of the possession of the congregation. The present pecuniary distress is greater than they or any other average church congregation where the poor far outnumber the rich can carry.

Will they got the needed assistance? There should be no question about it. It need not come as a work of charity or of good will either, but rather from a sense of obligation. Dr. Talmage is the world's preacher and the world's benefactor. At the call of every species of stress his breet and his hand, his water

and his pen, have responded as soon as the cry reached his ears. When Charleston was stricken by an earthquake, he was a leader in the work of relief. When the Johnstown flood catastrophe occurred, his response in deeds and words was most potent. When the cry of distress came from the starving peasants in Russia, he went 6,000 miles to distribute bread. For every local charity and every case of individual distress his right hand has literally been extended at all times. and his left knew nothing about it. If this unfortunate financial embar-

rassment of his church had not occurred. Dr. Talmage would probably never have troubled himself to correct the prevailing opinion that he had been drawing from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year for his services as pastor, but in speaking of the difficulty the other day he remarked incidentally that for the past three years he had received \$680 for his work, the balance of his salary having been turned back to the church.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle is unique. It is crowded at every service in the year. Everybody is just as welcome there as Somebody, and it is quite unnecessary to o to the highways and the byways to draw people in. Nor do the masses go to hear fine music or to see a gorgeous altar or rich church decorations, for these are very simple at the Tabernacle.

They go to hear Talmage preach. And his sermons are so luminous, so fresh, so inexhaustible, so full of interest and power, that they never tire of him. Dr. Talmage does not trouble his congregation much about theological dogma. Nobody can tell whether the Tabernacle pulpit is Baptist, Methodist or Presbyterian. His religious views are as broad as the poles, as deep as human needs and as high as heaven. He is no half hearted or doubting preacher, but he handles the truth forcibly and fearlessly.

A movement has been started to help Dr. Talmage and his congregation. Perhaps many readers of this paper who have had the rare pleasure of reading his sermons will be glad to crontribute to the success of this movement. The testimonial is to be a popular one, and dol-lars, dimes and pennies will be received with equal gratitude. It is hoped that a large number of contributions may be tendered by our readers, to whom Dr. Talkange's atterances have proved help-ful as they have appeared in these colunins and elsewhere.

All subscriptions sent to the office of this paper will be acknowledged and forwarded at once to Dr. Talmage in Brooklyn, together with the names of the do-

Rev. Dr. Talmage, whose church in Brooklyn is financially embarrassed, was the fourth brother to enter the ranks of Christian ministers. His first pastorate was at Belleville, N. J. Subsequently at Syracuse his preaching attracted great attention. His removal to Philadelphia increased vastly the number of his admirers, and his ministry of seven years in the Quaker City was a great success. He went to Brooklyn in 1869 and soon filled a shurch which had been much too large for the worshipers. The new Tabernacle will accommodate about 6,000 persons, and it is filled at every service. Contributions to relieve the church from the liability of a foreclosed mortgage may be sent to this office, whence they will be forwarded to Dr. Tabnage.

Both Rev. Dr. Talmage and his congregation have always been distinguished for public spirit and liberality in all philanthropic causes. The Tabernacle is not a Brooklyn institution solely, however. It belongs to every locality where the Shuffish language is spoken or read.



KENYON MILITARY

- THE BEST IN THE WORLD-

Blackwell's



Situated in the immediate section of country that produces a grade of tobacco, that in texture, flavor and quality is not grown elsewhere in the world, and being in position to command the choice of all offerings upon this market, we spare no pains not expense to give the trade

THE VERY BEST.

When in want of the best; ask for

Bull Durham

Sold everywhere. None genuine without the Trade Mark of the Bull on each package.

BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO CO., DURHAM, M. C.



Sproul & McGurrin PLUMBING.

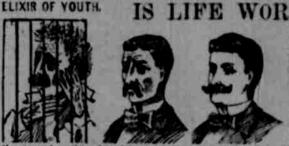
Steam Hot Water Heating, Hot Air Furnaces.

HANTELS, GRATES AND TILING, GAS AND ELECTRIC FIXTURES

ETC., ETC., ETC., ETC.

hed Diamond Hose and other brands. Water and Sewer Connections, arent Filters which kill all microses and germs and make water absorby pare, Douglas Instantaneous Water Heater, designed for Bath-selecale and Retail Dealers in Plumbers' Supplies. 184 East Fulton St. (Telephone 147.) Grand Rapids, Mich.

IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?



The German Hospital Remedy Co., GRAND RAYLOW or sale in Grand Rapids by White & White, 59 Monroe street; R. A. McWilliams, 38 West Bridge



By a Modern Scientifie Dimerery:

ADOLPH LEITELT.

Steam Engines and Boilers and General Mill Machinery

Nichols Lumber Dryer, Leulie's Improved Veneer Cutter.

Live or exhaust steam, Hot Rhast Appearatus for heating factories, Dry Kilms, Iron Piping Fetitle
Valves, etc., Improved Governors, Iron and Brass Custings, Harleing Casts, etc.

## PAINLESS DENTISTRY CLEVELAND BICYCLES

Teeth Filled or Extracted

Without pair to patient by a new process. All Work warranted first-class. Call for

M. H. LAMOREE. DENTIST.

Office open & a. m. to 6 p. m. Every evening

**1** AVE You Houses forRent? AVE You Stock to Sell? AVE You Money to Loan? TRY THE

Grand Rapids Herald.

HARO'S CURE



Four Reasons Why You Should Ride

The Cleveland Rise is the etroppest and allows a requir to be made in line time than any other on the market.

The Burwell Bearings are absolutely dust greed, made of tred sheel.

The Cheroland Thread Passmatic is the only one which is accountingly constructed on the thread. Attracted on the forena.

It is at least 30 per een more modificant than the next heat. It can be repaired on the read in less than two miltimes. It absorbs vibration at the possition contact with the abstraction. As canous on the thread to make it stiff. It is pictified and fireathin.

STUDLEY & BARCLAY

Catalogues mailed or given to anyone testing them.

Now is the time and this is the place to not root oxide upon and

THEY WASH THEIR CLOTHES SANTA SOAP That's where they get their style.

MADE ONLY BY N.K.FAIRBANK&CO. CHICAGO.

Baking ABSOLUTELY PURE

Highest of all in Leavening Power .- Latest U. S. Gov't Report.